

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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HMO  
OMP

September 30, 2011

# MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Providers Indicated**

**SUBJECT: Birthing Center Reimbursement Procedure Change**

Effective November 1, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is updating its enrollment and reimbursement procedures for services provided in birthing centers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in accordance with the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Section 2301, will acknowledge birthing centers as a facility qualified to receive reimbursement.

South Carolina Medicaid will enroll birthing centers for obstetrical and newborn services. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) must license the birthing center prior to enrolling in the South Carolina Medicaid program. For enrollment information, please contact our Provider Enrollment department at (888) 289-0709.

Reimbursement for services provided at a birthing center will be made directly to the Birthing Center Facility. Payment will be made according to an established fee schedule and will not exceed the allowable payment established for those services by Medicare (Title XVIII). The following codes will be billable by the facility:

**OB/Newborn Care** – Medicaid will reimburse for an all-inclusive facility fee and is billable with procedure code 59409 with the TC modifier. The facility fee will include all technical services provided by the birthing center including, but not limited to, administration, nursing, drugs, surgical dressings, supplies, and materials for anesthesia.

**Observation for Maternity/Labor** – Procedure code 99218 is billable for observation of maternity/labor. This code is billable only if the patient is at the birthing center laboring but the labor does not progress and the patient is sent home to return at a later time.

Reimbursement will continue to be made to a certified or licensed nurse midwife for a normal vaginal birth when a clean claim is submitted with the appropriate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code and modifier.

For a complete copy of these policy changes, please refer to the most current version of the Physician, Laboratories and Other Medical Professionals Provider Manual located on the DHHS website at <http://www.scdhhs.gov>. If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact your Program Manager at (803) 898-2660. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/  
Anthony E. Keck  
Director